

The Myth



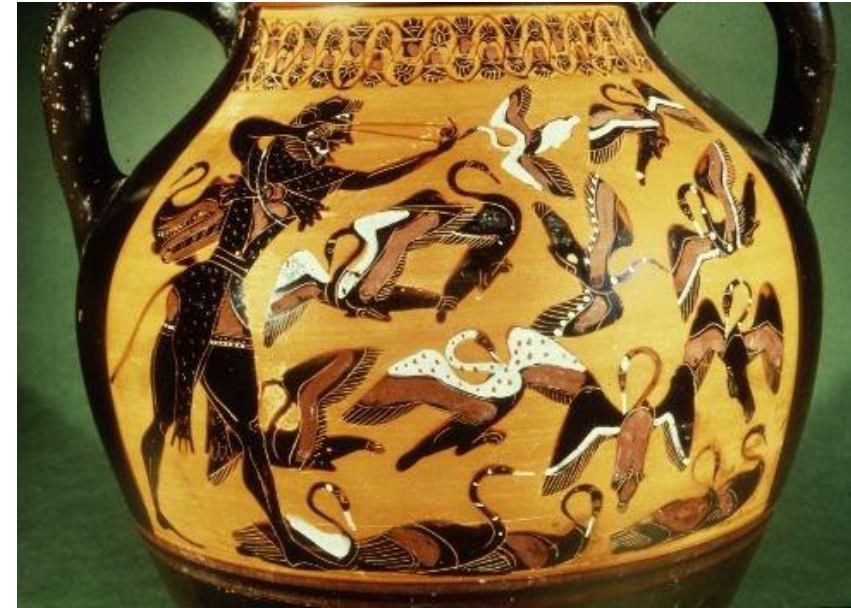
Labor IX – Killing the Stymphalian Birds

- ✠ At Stymphalus the marsh was fetid and the birds cawing
 - They were huge, fierce, hideous, with iron beaks and sharp talons
 - Three birds swooped down on Hercules, but he warded them off
- ✠ He failed several times to remove the birds
 - Until he recalled the teacher's words
 - "The flame that gleams beyond the mind reveals direction sure."
 - And a method came to his mind
- ✠ At twilight he clashed cymbals to disturb the huge flock
 - The dissonance was awful, but it confused and scared the birds
 - They rose in a vast cloud and fled in frantic haste, never to return
 - Silence spread across the marsh
- ✠ The labor was successful



Labor IX – Meaning of the Myth

- ✠ Marshes are a symbol of the mind, amplified by emotion
- ✠ Hercules discovers that he still has an emotional nature
 - Even though he triumphed in Scorpio, he still must control emotions
 - The birds that did the most damage were cruel gossip, selfish talk
 - Even talking about occult troubles when listeners aren't ready
- ✠ The more spirituality you achieve, the more potent you are
 - Thus the more harm you can do
 - The cymbals in the myth represent the mind & power of the Soul
 - The “monkey-mind” thoughts die down when focus is on the Soul
- ✠ Sagittarius is dual, half human/animal or human/Divine
 - Gemini on the same axis is duality; Sagittarius becomes unity
 - Becoming one-pointed, unified, a soul-infused personality



Sagittarius Labor
LoH p 155-168

Labor IX – The Journey

- ✚ One-pointedness is demonstrated
 - This is the consummation of the mental task begun in Aries
 - He demonstrates right use and control of thought and speech
- ✚ By slaying the man-eating birds of Stymphalos
 - He puts an end to all tendency to use thought destructively
 - No more gossip, criticism, or thoughts/words that harm
- ✚ Aspirants must weigh their thoughts carefully
 - Learn to speak kindly to minimize hurting others with words
 - Right use of thought, speech & harmlessness result in liberation
- ✚ We must also learn what not to say
 - Sagittarius is the spirit of Truth
 - Also the spirit of Right



Sagittarius Journey
LoH p 228

Sagittarius:	the Archer
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Focused direction. One-pointed activity. In the early stages, satisfaction of desire; in later stages aspiration for the goal of initiation.
Traits:	Negative traits: carelessness, tactless, superficiality, inconsistency, overconfidence. Positive traits: optimism, intelligence, philosophical outlook, generosity, adventurous spirit.
Esoteric Concepts:	Illumination of the spirit of truths (truth of the whole, rather than just a small part); refocusing and reorienting the personality to a higher goal.
Polar Opposite:	Gemini, an air sign (eventual control of fluidity and pairs of opposites; fusion, synthesis, at-one-ment).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Jupiter; Esoteric, Earth.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let food be sought.
soul angle:	I reach that goal and then I see another.

The Myth



Labor X – Slaying of Cerberus, Guardian of Hades

- ♊ Hercules had to do 3 things before descending to hell
 - He had to purify himself,
 - Be initiated into the mysteries
 - He then had to perform an act of service
- ♊ Hercules passed downward, into the underworld
 - This was the binding world of form, stifling, dark, intense
 - He was supported by Athena and Hermes as he crossed the Styx
 - He eventually found Hades, who allowed Hercules to proceed
 - ✓ Provided Hercules only used his bare hands
- ♊ Hercules then sought and confronted Cerberus
 - When that battle was won, he was able to free Prometheus
 - The labor was complete, now light shines in the world of dark



Labor X – Meaning of the Myth

- ♊ There are 2 gates of importance
 - Cancer, the gate into life, incarnation
 - Capricorn, the gate into the Spiritual Kingdom
 - ✓ Where consciousness is centered in the Soul, not form

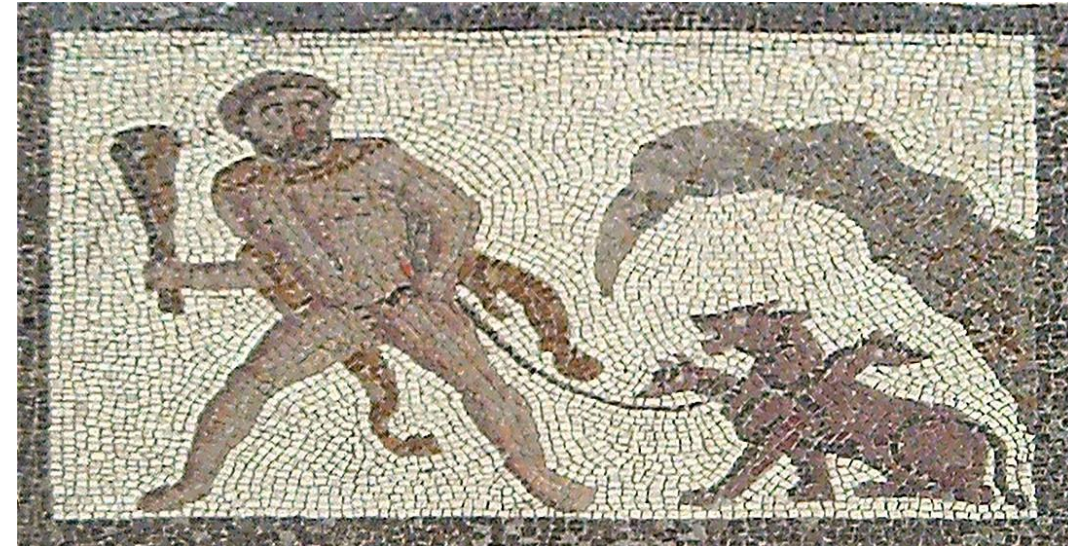
- ♊ This myth has 2 areas of emphasis
 - The descent into hell to free humanity
 - Slaying Cerberus, the 3-headed dog, the 3 lower vehicles
 - ✓ Some variations say he carried Cerberus up to Earth

- ♊ The 3 heads symbolize sensation, desire, & good intentions
 - The dog's tail, made of serpents, symbolized illusion and materiality
 - These are problems all humanity faces, but must conquer alone



Labor X – The Journey

- ♊ Carrying the 3-headed Cerberus up from Hades
 - Portrayal of the elevation of the personality into Heaven
 - The triple-matter aspect, 3-fold lower vehicles
- ♊ Demonstrating mastery of the strengthening tests
 - That enable him to take the 3rd initiation
 - He appears before the world as a liberated son of God
 - ✓ Free from the wheel of Rebirth
 - A world savior, able to work in Hell, on Earth, or in Heaven
- ♊ 9 Previous labors were of personal liberation
 - Last three concern world service
 - Important elements of this test are:
 - ✓ Developing a responsible attitude toward Humanity
 - ✓ Learning to kneel in humility before the Divine



Capricorn:	the Goat
Element:	Earth sign
Quality:	Extreme characteristics of the worst and best type. Ambition. Crystallization. Struggle overcome. Transfiguration. Initiate consciousness. The Unicorn of God.
Traits:	Negative traits: too cautious, pessimism, stubbornness, self-centered, detached. Positive traits: practicality, ambition, prudence, discipline, patience.
Esoteric Concepts:	Spiritual attainment, spiraling up to a wider field of awareness; transfiguration, where the head and heart meet, and the soul finally controls the form.
Polar Opposite:	Cancer, a water sign (first door to incarnation).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Saturn; Esoteric, Saturn
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide.
soul angle:	Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.